

From: Mark Horn
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:50am
Subject: Proposed Settlement is a bad idea...

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am a network security engineer and US citizen. I've been working with computer networking for 13 years. During that time, I've seen Microsoft's ascendancy to power. During that time, I've seen innumerable potential competitors get swallowed up by Microsoft's anti-competitive practices. But most importantly, during that time, I've seen friends and co-workers forced into using software, not because it best met their needs, but because they had no other practical choice. I've seen Netscape be the have the highest demand amongst users, only to see that option precluded when they tried to buy new computers.

Consumers have been directly harmed by Microsoft's anticompetitive business practices. So I was very encouraged when the Department of Justice filed suit, won the case, and prevailed on appeal.

I am, however, disappointed that my government has decided not to seriously consider the harm that this company has done to the US economy through the maintenance of their illegal monopoly. The proposed final judgement is woefully inadequate. It will do nothing to increase competition in the computer software marketplace, and in some cases will help to preserve Microsoft's monopoly.

I believe that the current proposal is grossly inadequate given the findings of fact. I urge you to throw it out and replace it with one that will effectively restore competition to the computer software marketplace.

Sincerely,
Mark J. Horn
Charlotte, NC